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BOTANY.—*Nomina conservanda proposals for families of seed plants*.¹ ELBERT L. LITTLE, Jr., Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

In three recent articles the older name Corylaceae has been substituted for Betulaceae, by which the birch family is commonly known. To avoid disadvantageous changes of

¹ Received July 7, 1949. After these proposals were submitted to the International Executive Committee before the closing date July 1, 1949, the following valuable reference became available: REHDER, ALFRED, *Bibliography of cultivated trees and shrubs, hardy in the cooler temperate regions of the Northern Hemisphere* (825 pp., Jamaica Plain, Mass. 1949). It contains detailed synonymy of family names within the scope of its title, including about half the names here proposed. In the Introduction (pp. ix-x), the late Professor Rehder agreed with the opinions expressed here rejecting Sprague's views on priority of family names not ending in *-aceae* and rejecting family names published in languages other than Latin. He interpreted Dammaraceae Link as a *nomen tentativum et subnudum* (p. 6).

According to Rehder's bibliography, two family names of my list had already been submitted by others. Betulaceae was briefly proposed for conservation by Janchen and Neumayer (*Österr. Bot. Zeitschr.* **91**: 229. 1942). Rehder himself (*Journ. Arnold Arb.* **26**: 278. 1945) had made a proposal for Vitaceae, though his citation of Lecaceae Horan. (1834) as the name to be rejected was later than Lecaceae Dumort. (1829), cited here. Also, Hippocastanaceae Torr. & Gray (1838) was proposed by Rehder (*Journ. Arnold Arb.* **26**: 278. 1945) for conservation against Paviaceae Horan. (1834), which also is prior to Aesculaceae Lindl. (1836), the name accepted here.

In his bibliography (p. x) Rehder called attention to family names published by Paulo Horaninov, *Primæ lineæ systematis naturæ* (142 pp., illus., Petropoli, 1834), a work overlooked by nearly all later authors. Examination of that reference reveals that two names credited to Lindley (1836) in my proposals were published earlier by Horaninov: Elaeocarpaceae Horan. (*Prim. Lin. Syst. Nat.* 96. 1834) and Rhizobolaceae Horan. (p. 100). Other names of that work having priority over names proposed for conservation by me and to be rejected are: Pineaceae Horan. (p. 45), an early name including Pinaceae and Araucariaceae, and Amomaceae Horan. (p. 50), for Zingiberaceae.

this kind, the International Rules of Botanical Nomenclature (ed. 3, 151 pp. Jena, 1935; *Brittonia* **6**: 1-120. 1947) include a special provision for retaining family names as *nomina conservanda familiarum* (art. 23 and art. 22, footnote). A proposal to conserve Betulaceae, therefore, would be in order. Before any additional changes in established family names are made, it has seemed appropriate to locate similar cases now, so that prompt action could be made at the next International Botanical Congress at Stockholm in 1950.

After making a brief search, I have submitted to the International Executive Committee proposals for *nomina conservanda familiarum*, as provided in the Rules (art. 21, note 1), for 12 widely used family names of seed plants which lack priority. They are Ginkgoaceae, Pinaceae, Stemonaceae, Zingiberaceae, Betulaceae, Dichapetalaceae, Vitaceae, Elaeocarpaceae, Caryocaraceae, Caricaceae, Lecythythidaceae, and Onagraceae. A few other family names in use but lacking priority, which the Executive Committee may wish to consider, are mentioned also. These include Araucariaceae and Taxodiaceae, both segregates from Pinaceae. The only family names submitted in 1948 to the American Society of Plant Taxonomists for sponsorship were five others proposed by W. H. Camp (*Brittonia* **7**: 36-38. 1949).

More than a half century ago, a valuable, comprehensive list of family names of seed plants with citations and synonyms was prepared by John Hendley Barnhart (*Family nomenclature*, Bull. Torrey Bot. Club **22**: 1-24. 1895). Naturally, some names ac-